



THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
SUNDAY, JULY 14, 2024
 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

acceptance

St. Matthias Parish Office: Eff. 6/10/24

Monday - Thursday, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm,
 Friday 8:30AM-1:00PM
 168 JFK Boulevard, Somerset, NJ 08873
 732-828-1400, fax: 732-828-0866
www.stmatthias.net

Mass Schedule (in person):

Sat - 5 PM, Sun - 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM & 12 noon
 M/T/W/Th/F at 8:00 AM
 also on our YouTube channel
youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ

St. Matthias School (SMS):

170 JFK Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873
www.stmatthias.info 732-828-1402
 School Office Hours, Monday-Thursday 9AM-1PM, and Friday by appointment.

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net

Pastor: Rev Abraham Orapankal, **Abraham**
 Fr. Lancelot McGrath, *Parochial Vicar* **lmcgrath**
 Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, *Business Administrator*
mpburke-grospin

Deacon Ron Caimi, *Senior Deacon*
 Kelly Counts, *Receptionist*, **kcounts**
 Deacon Russell Demkovitz, **rdemkovitz**
 Nathalie Godet, *Website & Bulletin Editor*,
ngodet

Leslie Guillen, *Bulletin Coordinator*, **lg Guillen**
 Amy Hanna, *Accountant/Databases*, **ahanna**
 Mike Lanyi, *Sacristan*
 Sue Lenczewski, *Youth Coordinator*, **SMYLE**
 Julio Montero, *Maintenance Supervisor*
 Dolores R. Nann, *Pastoral Associate for*
Faith Formation, **dnann**
 Vinnie Natale, *Bookkeeper*, **vnatale**
 Silvia Nizama, *Housekeeper*
 Deacon John Radvanski, **deaconjohn**
 Joan Best Seamon, *Pastoral Associate for*
Music Ministry, **jseamon**

St. Matthias School (add @stmatthiasnj.org)
 Mary Lynch, *Principal*, **mlynch**



NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

A very unique event being held
 July 14th-21st in Indianapolis, Indiana.
 Please keep the attendees in your prayers.
<https://diometuchen.org/nec2024>.



**PLEASE COME JOIN THE MANY WHO SPEND SOME
 QUIET TIME WITH THE EUCHARISTIC LORD.
 OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE
 MONDAY EVENING, JULY 15, 2024
 FROM 6 PM TO 8 PM.**

Masses are also livestreamed on our YouTube channel: youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ

The Church is open for individual prayer

Mon-Fri: 7:30 am to dusk , Sat: 9 am to 6pm, and Sun: 7:30 am to 1 pm, unless another service is taking place.

Sunday, July 14, 2024

8:00AM	Mass	Church
9:30AM	ServiceWorX- 10AM Mass	Cafeteria
10:00AM	Mass	Church
12:00PM	Mass	Church
3:00PM	Gold Award - Emily Chavez	Church
	With Deacon John	

Monday, July 15, 2024 St. Bonaventure, Bishop & Martyr

8:00AM	Mass -Miraculous Medal Novena	Church
8:30AM	Service WorX	Cafeteria
6:00PM	Eucharist Adoration	Church

Tuesday, July 16, 2024 Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

8:00AM	Mass	Church
8:30AM	Service WorX	Cafeteria

Wednesday, July 17, 2024 St. Alexix of Rome, Confessor

8:00AM	Mass St. Joseph Novena	Church
8:30AM	Service WorX	Cafeteria
9:30AM	Holy Spirit Prayer Grp.	de Porres Rm

Thursday, July 18, 2024 St. Frederick of Utrecht, Bishop & Martyr

8:00AM	Mass	Church
8:30AM	Service WorX	Cafeteria

Friday, July 19, 2024 Sts. Justa & Rufina, Martyrs

8:00AM	Mass	Church
8:30AM	Service WorX	Cafeteria

Saturday, July 20, 2024 St. Apollinaris, Bishop & Martyr

All Day - HOME, Meals for the Homeless Cafeteria		
3:30PM	Reconciliation	Church
5:00PM	Vigil Mass	Church

Sunday, July 21, 2024

All Day - HOME, Meals for the Homeless Cafeteria		
8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
12:00PM	Mass	Church



Bulletin Article Requests:

If you would like to send information to be included in our bulletin, please email it to bulletin@stmatthias.net by 9 AM, MONDAY, 5 business days before the needed bulletin date (earlier for holiday weekends). Approved content is published on a space-available basis.



Dear Friends,

This year has been one of two major Milestones.

I celebrated my 75th Birthday and the 20th anniversary of my ordination to the Diaconate. 20 wonderful years of serving St Matthias. The turning of 75 also has a significance for the Diaconate. 75 Is the mandatory age for a Deacon to retire here in our Diocese. You either retire completely.. where you can do Baptisms etc. for only close relatives .. or if your Pastor approves you can continue as normal on a year-to-year basis. Father Abraham and I have agreed to continue on a year-to-year basis ...and the Bishop has approved.

I want to talk about the call to serve The Lord. Before I was ordained there was a year of discernment and four years of studies before being ordained. I truly had to discern about my calling. Scripture has much to say about the different ways we may serve God. In Corinthians, we hear “Now there are a variety of gifts but the same Spirit. There are a variety of services but the same Lord. There are a variety of activities but it is the same God who empowers them to serve for the common good. In Peter 4: 10-11 we hear “As each had received a gift use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace: whoever serves as one who serves by the strength that God supplies... so that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

The good news my brothers and sisters is that if we serve God by serving others then serving God can be done in almost every aspect of our lives. One of the ways we can serve the Lord is by being more involved with our St Matthias Church community. By sharing our gifts and talents with others enriches our lives. We have many ministries here at St Matthias that could surely use your gifts and talents. Each of us has a gift or talent that can be shared with others. Take some time during these summer months to sit with the Lord ... to see where He may be calling you. Remember sometimes the call is a whisper. Also, know that I am available if you need any encouragement to join one of the ministries here at St. Matthias.

Yours in Christ,

Deacon Russ

Readings for the Week

Monday Is 1:10-17 Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23 Mt 10:34 – 11:1

Tuesday Is 7:1-9 Ps 48:2-3a, 3b-4, 5-6, 7-8 Mt 11:20-24

Wednesday Is 10:5-7, 13b-16 Ps 94:5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 14-15 Mt 11:25-27

Thursday Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19 Ps 102:13-14ab and 15, 16-18, 19-21 Mt 11:28-30

Friday Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8 Isaiah 38:10, 11, 12abcd, 16 Mt 12:1-8

Saturday Mi 2:1-5 Ps 10:1-2, 3-4, 7-8, 14 Mt 12:14-21

Sunday Jer 23:1-6 Ps 23:1-3, 3-4, 5, 6 Eph 2:13-18 Mk 6:30-34

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, July 13 5:00PM Martin Slyman, by Vince & Dee Dee Martell

Sunday, July 14 8:00AM Intention of Parishioners

10:00AM Pax Valdez, by Alma Valdez

12:00PM Angela Rosanes Tuyay, by The Nonailada Family

Monday, July 15 8:00AM Loida Durano, by Lynette Pil

Tuesday, July 16 8:00AM Louie D. Ramos, by Mom

Wednesday, July 17 8:00AM Juanita & Vincente LaTorre, by Edna

Thursday, July 18 8:00AM Richard Gibson, by Connie & Anthony Rossi

Friday, July 19 8:00AM Remia Alomia, by The Capuno Family

Saturday, July 20 5:00PM Mary Ellen Delaney, by Bill & Pat Kelleher

Sunday, July 21 8:00AM Mark Janeski, by Karen Barood Samaan & Claude Samaan & Family

10:00AM Intention of Parishioners

12:00PM Doris Regan, by Kevin & Sue D'Angiolillo

Pray for those who are sick...

If you or a family member are sick, please call the Parish Office or **email Kelly Counts** at kcoun@stmatthias.net to add the name to this list. Names will be listed in the bulletin for **6 weeks**. Please let us know if this time period needs to be extended. We want to know how you are doing and want to offer you the support of our prayers.

New people on our prayer list are noted in blue.

Kristin Baio	Andrea Dubuisson	Rose Larangeira	Robert Pellegrino	Sr. Bernadine Marie
Olga Marie Bando	Hattie Evans	Armando D. Liban	Robert Pietrowiak	Stemnock
Carolyn Banghart	Sharon Gadomski	Mary Lou Litrakis	Randolff Pinard	Anita Vance
Brandon Barbarite	Heinley Gaspard	John Litrakis	Valerie Polci	Leticia Veridiano
Ghislaine Baron	Claudia Gemgnani	Denis Loboda	Prasek/Scarpa Family	Eileen Weber
Helen Bell	Emma Gergely	Aries Magali	Kim Price	Nancy Whelan
Samantha Bellouny	Claude Godet	Kenneth & Kelly	Nina Ripley	Theresa Sau-Ling Yung
Carmen Bender	Marie Godet	Magat	Frank Rispoli	Ginette Zamor
Mary Bostrom	Shelly Greene	Susan, King & Tosh	Gabriel Rivera	Anne Zando
Robert Brisson	Linda Hartong	Manansala	Arina Robinson	
Tara Capatosto	Jeff Hentz	Alexandra Marquez	Bob Rotz	And for all who are ill,
Elizabeth Card	Marilyn Horvath	Christine Matthews	Marisa Ruppel	homebound, elderly,
Rustico Castellano, Jr.	Jerry & Donna Hucul	Ann McElwee	Maria Schwenzer	in nursing care, or
Lisa DeFeo	Jean Alix Jolly	Jessica Marie Merrick	Amy Shepp	living with chronic
Zenon DeGuzman	Renée Jolly	Gail Miranda	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF	illness, we pray.
Pat Dolphin	Donna Kahora	Menchie Molano-	Timothy Siclari	
Vivian Dong	Betsy Kondrat	Sotelo	Catherine Steele	
Sanora Doyen	Kathy Langenbacher	Danny Ongchango		

Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

Reflect



Smile with Your Family




Favorite Hymns of Different Professions:

The Dentist's Hymn ... Crown Him With Many Crowns
 The Weatherman's Hymn ... There Shall Be Showers Of Blessing
 The Contractor's Hymn ... The Church's One Foundation
 The Tailor's Hymn ... Holy, Holy, Holy
 The Golfer's Hymn ... There Is A Green Hill Far Away
 The Politician's Hymn ... Standing On The Promises
 The Optometrist's Hymn ... Open My Eyes That I May See
 The IRS Agent's Hymn ... I Surrender All
 The Gossip's Hymn ... Pass It On
 The Electrician's Hymn ... Send The Light


The Shopper's Hymn ... In The Sweet By and By
 The Realtor's Hymn ... I've Got A Mansion Just Over The Hilltop
 The Pilot's Hymn ... I'll Fly Away
 The Paramedic's Hymn ... Revive Us Again ☺

MOMS WILL ALWAYS BE MOMS:
 Michelangelo's mother: "Can't you paint on walls like other children? Do you have any idea how hard it is to get that stuff off the ceiling?" ☺
 Albert Einstein's mother: "Can't you do something about your hair? Use styling gel or something?" ☺
 Bill Gates's mother: "You keep browsing all day long; watch out if I ever catch you on any adult web-site." ☺



Parenting Tune-Up

July 13 was 'Friday the 13th' which means bad luck to some people. Are you superstitious? Why not turn the tables and change that perception into a lucky day for someone! Can you think of a way to make someone feel lucky on such a day and remove superstitions? (Susan Vogt)



Marriage Tune-Up

Do you "overtalk"? Instead of saying, "Honey, my mom went in and the doctor diagnosed varicose veins. She's going to have to get them stripped, which will make it very difficult for her to walk for a couple of weeks. As you know, she lives all alone now, and the only person who can help her is Mrs. Jenkins, who just visits twice a week, on Thursdays and Fridays. Mom's going to need more help than that."

Instead, try: "Honey, my mom is having surgery next week and needs some time to recover. Do you mind if she stays with us for a few days?® Keep it short. (Kevin Leman, *Making Sense*) of the Men in Your Life)

UNFINISHED HOUSES

Jesus sends out the Twelve two by two to preach and heal.
Mark 6: 7-13

Education Across Borders is a nonprofit group that organizes volunteers to build homes for the poor in the Dominican Republic. Every summer, teenagers and young adults join the group for two-week service trips. Their initial enthusiasm wanes a bit on the first day when they begin work on a house and realize they will never see it finished. *Why can't we finish the house?* they ask. *Weren't we good enough? Didn't we work hard enough? Will the poor resent us for "failing" this project?* John McLaughlin, who directs *Education Across Borders*, explains to them that service work, if it is to last, must be about accompaniment more than accomplishment. That unfinished house is a tangible reminder that there is still much to be done. McLaughlin remembers one group from an American parish who came focused on the work of completing the house. They rose before dawn and worked ten or more hours every day in the tropical heat. They left disappointed that "we didn't get

done as much as we want. "But 'getting a lot done' was never the point," McLaughlin says. "Keeping up such an industrial pace had all but precluded [the students] from learning Dominicans' names, speaking Spanish or having their assumptions - about the causes and structures of poverty, for example - challenged. No emotional risk was involved for the students . . . little transformation could take place for anyone." Another group McLaughlin worked with got little done because of constant downpours every afternoon. "We lost many hours of building time that week, but the students took the opportunity to talk more with the villagers, including Etienne, a young immigrant from Haiti. Several students went to great lengths to embrace him, plodding through long, piecemeal Spanish-English-Creole conversations, sharing their meals with him and even, in the case of one volunteer, giving him a church-suitable shirt (in a culture that values appearance highly) so that he could attend Mass for the first time.

"That Sunday, Etienne sat among the students at the service

continued

July 14, 2024

Unfinished Houses (continued)

and afterward joined in the *despedida*, the traditional send-off party. The sun came out, and stayed out; perhaps we should have spent the day on the construction site, to make up for lost time. But by then the students knew, without me telling them, where they were most needed. They were in the community center, dancing not with each other, but with their new Dominican and Haitian friends. . . . "Service is fundamentally about relationship," McLaughlin has discovered. "Yes, it involves mixing concrete or ladling soup, but it also means walking with and listening to the suffering, sharing stories and laughter, tears and prayers. Understanding service as accompaniment reminds us to whom the house really belongs, and to Whom we really belong." [From | *Unfinished Houses: Building the kingdom on God's time* by John J. McLaughlin, *America*, July 21-28, 2014.]

Just as he sends forth the Twelve, Jesus sends us forth with our "walking sticks," not to build or rule or dominate but to heal, comfort and encourage. Our own service to others, Jesus says, should be centered not in efficiency or results but in mercy, humility and gratitude. Let us build houses for the poor, but first may we welcome them into our homes and communities; let us feed the hungry, but first make places for them at our tables; let us reach out to the lost and troubled, but first recognize them as our brothers and sisters in Christ.

"Friend, Lend me your hands"

During the wind-swept city bridge War, a small Korean village came under heavy artillery fire. When the smoke of the battle cleared away, the pastor of the parish sought the help of some American soldiers in restoring to its pedestal a fallen statue of Christ. Since the statue's hands were gone, the soldiers planned to mold two new hands. The pastor, however, came up with a very meaningful suggestion: "Let us leave the statue as it is and write on the front of the pedestal the words, "Friend, lend me your hands."

Sending his apostles as his ambassadors to preach the "Good News" and to heal the sick, Jesus, in today's Gospel, reminds us that he has no hands but ours to raise the fallen; no feet but ours to seek out the lost; no ears but ours to listen to the lonely; and no tongue but ours to speak words of sympathy and encouragement to those weighed down by sorrow, pain and failure.



"Let people hear it"

Fritz Kreisler (1875-1962), the world-famous violinist, earned a fortune with his concerts and compositions, but he generously gave most of it away. Therefore, when he discovered an exquisite violin on one of his trips, he wasn't able to buy it. Later, having raised enough money to meet the asking price, he returned to the seller, hoping to purchase that beautiful instrument. However, to his great dismay it had been sold to a collector. Kreisler made his way to the new owner's home and offered to buy the violin. The collector said it had become his prized possession and he would not sell it. Keenly disappointed, Kreisler was about to leave when he had an idea. "Could I play the instrument once before it is consigned to silence?" he asked. Permission was granted, and the great virtuoso filled the room with such heart-moving music that the collector's emotions were deeply stirred. "I have no right to keep this violin to myself," he exclaimed. "It's yours, Mr. Kreisler. Take it into the world, and let people hear it."

Jesus gives us the same instruction the collector gave Kreisler when He shares with us the mission He gives the Apostles today in the Gospel. It is a witnessing mission. Each Christian is called not only to be a disciple but also to be an apostle. As disciples, we have to follow Jesus and imitate Jesus. As apostles, we have to evangelize the world. We are called to share with others not just words, or ideas, or doctrines but an experience, our experience of God and His Son, Jesus. Like the apostles, like St. Francis Assisi, like Blessed Mother Teresa, we are all chosen and sent to proclaim the Gospel through our living. It is through our transparent Christian lives that we must show in our own actions the love, mercy and concern of Jesus for the people around us. Since we are baptized, Jesus is calling us in our working and living environment to evangelize, to invite people to know Jesus, to love him, to serve him and to follow him. An important part of evangelism is the simple act of inviting a friend or family member to join us in worship. This is where reconciliation between persons and God is most likely to take place. We do not have to commit verbal assault on someone with our convictions. A simple invitation offered out of a loving and joyful heart is the most powerful evangelistic message of all.

continued



“We make Marines. We win battles.”

Do you remember one of the most eye-catching commercials that used to be on television, the one that is sponsored by the United States Marine Corps? It showed a young man fighting, and then slaying a fire-breathing dragon with an Excalibur-like sword. At the end of that commercial, with that sword gleaming in the light, decked out in that resplendent dress blue uniform, the commercial ends with these words: "The Few-the Proud-the Marines." The mission statement of Marines is, "We make Marines. We win battles."

That is not only the mission of the Marine Corps; that was the mission of the Lord Jesus Christ when He was on earth, and that is still His mission through the Church today. From the time Jesus began his ministry, to this very moment, Jesus has been looking for "spiritual Marines." May I be very honest with all of us, including myself? If our Commander-in-Chief, General Jesus, were to return today, I believe that he would find many, if not most, of his soldiers a disgrace to the uniform. Today's gospel is a clarion call to us to take our mission more seriously.

“Why didn't you tell me it was so beautiful?”

A young boy who had been blind from birth had just been operated on. The new procedure offered the possibility of sight for this young boy who had never seen the light of day. As the parents waited for the doctor to remove the patches, which had covered his eyes since surgery, they were uncertain, about what his response would be. Blinking his eyes, adjusting to the sights and colors around him, the boy suddenly began to take it all in. Full of excitement, he said to his parents, "Why didn't you tell me it was so beautiful?"

This is the work of evangelism. It is the business of helping persons open their eyes and see the world as they have never seen it before. It is not the pressuring of people to come to Church. Such pressure is in the end nonproductive and basically unchristian. Rather, evangelism is the introduction of persons to a new way of living, a new way of relating, a new way of perceiving the meaning of existence. That will happen when we live as children of God. Realization of our dignity as children of God should change our outlook on life. We are to be children filled with love, rather than selfishness and disobedience. We are to respect our brothers and sisters in Christ. As God's children, we should live a life of absolute trust in the goodness of our Heavenly Father, who knows what is best for us. The realization that we are the children of God should bring us great comfort, peace and joy—even in our worst moments.



Witness by Living

During the American Civil War, President Lincoln had a strapping athletic young man as his secretary. In those days before office machinery, such a man would literally be pushing a pen or pencil. This particular man was not happy about it. He wanted to get out where the action was – on the battlefield. He wanted to go out and do great things for his country. He was quite willing to die for his country. So he kept complaining to Lincoln about the women's work he was doing, when he could be in uniform confronting the enemy. After hearing the usual complaint one day, Lincoln stared at him, rubbed his hands in his beard and said in his philosophical way, "Young man, as I see it, you are quite willing to die for your country, but you are not ready to live for it." Martyrs (just a Greek word for witnesses) give their lives *by dying or by living*.

“Our first task is to make people aware of their predicament!”

In his sermon to the graduates of a Seminary in New York City, Paul Tillich, the theologian, preached on the theme of healing and casting out demons. He told the graduating seminarians that they would experience two difficulties as they went to their new parishes with this message of healing and casting out demons:

(1) Many people will say that they do not need to be healed.

(2) Many will laugh at the absurdity of casting out demons that rule their lives; they may tell the proclaimer that he or she is possessed by a demon for saying so - just as they did to Jesus.

"Therefore," Tillich said, "the first task of the minister is to make people aware of their predicament." [Paul Tillich, *The Eternal Now* (New York: Charles Scribner® Sons, 5307), p. 92.]

The predicament of people's insensitivity to their own needs and the forces of evil is further complicated by the fact that we don't know what demons are. Although many people don't believe in real demonic possession in our age, there are many demons which can control the lives of people around us making them helpless slaves. For example there are the demons of nicotine, alcohol, gambling, pornography and promiscuous sex, materialism and consumerism, or of any other activity which somehow can take control of people's lives and become an addiction over which they have no control. All of these, or any one of them, can turn people into slaves. We need the help of Jesus to liberate us and others from these things. Jesus is inviting us today to cooperate with him. He wants us to be his instruments of liberation, to help others recover their freedom. We are meant to help people to cure their sicknesses - not only the bodily sicknesses but psychological and emotional illnesses as well. As a family member, a friend, a colleague, an evangelizer, when we work with Jesus, we can truly have a healing influence.

Learn



2024-2025 Registration
PREK3- OPEN SPOTS
PREK4- LIMITED AVAILABILITY
PLEASE CALL FOR AVAILABILITY IN GRADES K-8

St. Matthias School
170 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Somerset, NJ
732-828-1402

Make a
donation
from the
heart.

Need information on how to
contribute to our Tullion
Angels Fund?
Please contact:
Mrs. Jo-Ann Plagentini
msplag@aol.com or
Dr. Judy Marino
jdmario4@gmail.com



FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATIONS ARE OPEN!

2024-2025 **GIFT** for K-8 Religious Formation
<https://stmatthias.net/faith-formation/>

Attention 2nd Graders:

First Eucharist Preparation 2024-2025

<https://stmatthias.net/first-eucharist-first-reconciliation/>



Confirmation

Attention 7th & 8th Graders or older students who have NOT prepared for Confirmation
Confirmation Preparation 2024-2025
<https://stmatthias.net/confirmation/>

Questions? Please call the Parish Office, 732-828-1400 or email Dee Nann, dnann@stmatthias.net



SERVICWORX - YOUTH SHARE

'ServiceWorX' is a term we hear every year during summer here at St. Matthias. It is our annual week of service and reflection organized by our Office of Religious

Education and the Center for Faith Justice (which is now renamed as Good Faith) for our youth in their Confirmation program. Named for the biblical passage "Faith without works is dead" (James 2:26), ServiceWorX is an innovative program seeking to engender in participants a deep understanding of systemic poverty and instill lifelong values of justice through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching.

Each morning our youth were taken to a site for doing some service for people in need and on their return in the afternoon they would be helped to process the experience and reflect in the context of God's Word and the Social Teachings of the Church. At the end of the week, there was a concluding prayer service during which some of the youth shared their experiences with parents and organizers. They were also asked to share their experience and learnings and email them to the organizers.

The following questions were given to them and their responses are serialized in the bulletin for our parishioners to have a sense of the good works and the learnings our youth had.

- 1) Tell us about one service site and what you did there.
- 2) What did you most enjoy about your service and the reflection activities in the afternoon at St. Matthias?
- 3) What challenges did you face while participating in service?
- 4) What lessons have you learned from these various experiences?
- 5) How did you find the story of the Good Samaritan related to what you did during those five days of ServiceworX?

Please see the reflection answers from Danielle Chavez:

- 1: One Service site I went to was Somerset Cap.
- 2: I really enjoyed being able to know that I helped people. Adults, kids, etc. A reflection activity I enjoyed was Gifts & Challenges.
- 3: Some challenges I faced was stepping out of my comfort zone and talk to people I don't know.
- 4: A lesson I learned during service works is that no matter what language a person speaks, or what their background is, being able to have a genuine conversation with them could make a difference in both of our lives.
- 5: I think the Good Samaritan related to our service because we went out of our way to help people willingly, even though they were in a different situation as us.

Pray

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU FROM SISTER MARIE THERESE

My Dear Parishioners,

It is with deep gratitude that I say thank you to all of you who attended my farewell mass last Sunday. The combined choir and handbell choir led us in joyful worship. During the reception following, I was blessed to share special personal moments with many parishioners I have grown to know over the years.

THANK YOU, to those of you who gave me monetary and personal gifts... May you be blessed for your generosity. As I said when I spoke at Mass, It has been a PRIVILEGE for me to minister among you, and I will cherish all the memories we have shared.

*With love and gratitude,
Sister Marie Therese*

Connect

UPDATE ABOUT OUR CHURCH MEDIA PROJECT

Many of you have probably noticed some changes on the wall behind the choir. We are making preparations for installation of our new projection and live stream system this summer. This plan was begun when Fr. Joe (Msgr. Curry) with us. You may remember that we had focused on the Giving Tuesday contributions two years in a row for this media update. And we're very excited to finally be completing this important project!

Though details of this project were published in the bulletin a few times, it is good to refresh our memory. The new livestream system includes two high definition remote-controlled cameras and a video and sound mixing system that will greatly improve the video and sound quality of our livestream. The projection system includes a 150" diagonal 16:9 screen and a 4K capable 8500 lumen laser projector. This will vastly improve image brightness and contrast, so the system will be useful not only for live-streaming our liturgy but also for faith formation, GIFT sessions, and other parish events. Mr. Jeff Beck and Mr. Joe Mancuso have been working tirelessly on this project. We hope to see a very much improved experience of the media use in our church.



**ARE YOU DONE WITH THE HEAT? THINK COOL!
THINK SNOW! THINK CHRISTMAS!**

THINK CHRISTMAS IN JULY!!!

SPREAD THE LIGHT IS COMING!



It is not too soon to begin to think about our "Spread the Light" campaign in December.

This is a wonderful opportunity to honor your loved ones, your business, a family milestone or any other celebration or occasion. Last year we lit in excess of 270 trees which brightened our church and spread good will to all our neighbors in Somerset and beyond.

This is the largest fund raiser for the parish. We thank all our past participants and we encourage all parishioners to join in this inspirational, and what is becoming, an honored tradition in our parish and community.

Help us "Spread the Light"!

Sign up forms are available at exit doors of the church and on the website
www.stmatthias.net/trees

Give (and Receive!)

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 49 - June 2, 2024	\$9,932.68	\$9,865.50	\$19,798.18	\$23,540.25
Week 50 - June 9, 2024	\$11,730.00	\$26,120.00	\$37,850.00	\$34,618.75
Week 51 - June 16, 2024	\$13,137.50	\$14,481.50	\$27,619.00	\$22,281.25
Week 52 - June 23, 2024	\$11,390.00	\$12,065.50	\$23,455.50	\$20,215.25
Week 53 - June 30, 2024	\$7,647.00	\$9,418.50	\$17,065.50	
			Month-to-date Total	June Total Last Year
			\$125,788.18	\$100,655.50
			Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as of Jun 30, 2023
			\$1,394,549.23	\$1,394,975.73

We Reached Our Goal

Good news! We have reached 100% of our goal of the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Sincere thanks to our parishioners that made this happen.

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 1 - July 7, 2024	\$8,581.00	\$20,875.00	\$29,456.00	\$21,283.25
Week 2 - July 14, 2024			\$0.00	\$34,943.75
Week 3 - July 21, 2024			\$0.00	\$23,019.25
Week 4 - July 28, 2024			\$0.00	\$22,034.85
			\$0.00	\$18,828.75
			Month-to-date Total	June Total Last Yr
			\$29,456.00	\$120,109.85
			Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as of July 31, 2023
			\$29,456.00	\$120,109.85

Stewardship Reflection July 14, 2024 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“He instructed them to take nothing for the journey but a walking stick – no food, no sack, no money in their belts.” Mark 6:8

Imagine taking nothing but a stick when you go on a trip. The Apostles must have really trusted in God's providential care. Think of all the material things “we can't live without” in today's world. We make our life's journey more difficult because of all the material baggage that we drag along. Putting God first in everything and putting our money and possessions second gives us freedom because we don't become “slaves” to wanting to acquire more things.

Reflexiónese - 14 de julio de 2024 15° Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

“Les ordenó que no llevaran nada para el camino: ni pan, ni bolsa, ni dinero en el cinturón, sino solo un cayado.” Marcos 6:8

Imagine que solo lleva un cayado cuando va de viaje. Los apóstoles debían realmente confiar en el cuidado providencial de Dios. Piense en todas las cosas materiales “sin las que no podemos vivir” en el mundo actual. Hacemos nuestro viaje por la vida más difícil por todo el equipaje material que arrastramos. Poner a Dios en primer lugar en todo, y a nuestro dinero y posesiones en segundo lugar nos da libertad porque no nos transformamos en “esclavos” de querer adquirir más cosas.

Give (and Receive!) (continued)



IF YOU HAVE NOT SIGNED UP WITH PARISH GIVING...

Parish Giving offers secure flexible online giving for our parishioners who would like to make their donations online using a credit card or bank transfer. You never have to bring cash or checks to church. Giving electronically also helps the church save money and plan the budget. If you want to simplify your life, go to our website, www.stmatthias.net and click on the Parish Giving Link under 'Give'. Parish Giving offers you complete control over your account to change your giving as needed. You have the benefit to generate a giving report and easily choose the specific collections you wish to support. We thank you for your support which enables St. Matthias to minister to the community.

SUMMER CONTRIBUTIONS...?

We sincerely thank our parishioners who mail or deliver their weekly envelopes to the parish office while they are out of town on vacations this summer. Thanks to the majority of our parishioners who have signed up with Parish Giving to make the weekly contributions online at www.Parishgiving.org or go to: <https://stmatthias.net/give/>. This makes it easy for everyone. As many of you understand, our parish expenses and obligations do not take a vacation when you do, so it is very helpful to be able to rely on the continued support even when you cannot personally attend Mass here. May God bless you and your families. Have a safe and blessed summer.

Connecting to Our Local Community



July 11 FOT 1ST ANNIVERSARY PARTY

7 PM - 9 PM | Holy Spirit Hall @ MMoG
Come celebrate with us! RSVP required for food count

July 19 "PIERCED BY HIS WOUNDS: A LOOK INTO THE STIGMATA" ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

7 PM - 9 PM | Erica & Mike's House | RSVP Required
Address provided upon RSVP

July 27

SERVE & WORSHIP @ THE CARMEL OF MARY IMMACULATE & ST. MARY MAGDALEN

9 AM meet @ MMOG | 10 AM @ The Carmel in Flemington
Bring gardening tools, additional info to follow

RSVP to faithontap@marymotherofgod.org

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:

Co-Chairs:

Frank Rees
Frees814@gmail.com
Marilyn Wegg
mcw-wam@comcast.net

Co-Secretaries:

Stephen Busono
sbusono@gmail.com
Bill Isele
t33sm@aol.com
Al Drabnis
Didi Molano

Sheila Tartaglia

Fr. Lancelot McGrath,
Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

Trustees:

Pearl Scott
Marge Richards

Parish Finance Council:

Kester Hector, Chair
Finance Council
@stmatthias.net
Carmen Driz-Melilli
Barry Dusault
Joan Pritchard

Cory Panlilio

Mary Pat Burke-Grospin,
Ex-Officio
Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

About St. Matthias (please contact the staff members on the cover for up-to-date information)

Parish Registration — Welcome to St. Matthias! Please register on our website. www.stmatthias.net/join-us, or visit the Parish Office.

Marriage — Registered parishioners should contact the parish office a year before the desired wedding date.

Baptism — Baptismal Preparation Sessions are held four times a year for registered parishioners. Please contact the parish office before the baby is born. The sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the second and fourth Sunday of each month, except during Lent.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) - If you are interested in becoming a Catholic or completing the Sacraments of Initiation-- Baptism/Confirmation/Eucharist, please call the Parish Office.



St. Matthias School is a PreK3 through 8th grade school rooted in faith, inspired by love, and dedicated to academic excellence. Before and After School Care Programs are available. Come visit! Contact 732-828-1402 to schedule a tour.



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